

March 16, 2010

TO: Members of the Transportation Policy Committee

FROM: Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Avondale, Chair

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF MEETING AND TRANSMITTAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA

Meeting - 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 24, 2010
MAG Office, Suite 200 - Saguaro Room
302 N. First Avenue, Phoenix

A meeting of the Transportation Policy Committee is scheduled for the time and place noted above. Members of the Committee may attend the meeting either in person, by videoconference, or by telephone conference call. As determined at the first meeting of the Committee, proxies are not allowed. Members who are not able to attend the meeting are encouraged to submit their comments in writing, so that their view is always a part of the process.

For those attending in person, please park in the garage under the building. Bring your ticket to the meeting, parking will be validated. For those using transit, the Regional Public Transportation Authority will provide transit tickets for your trip. For those using bicycles, please lock your bicycle in the bike rack in the garage.

Pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), MAG does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to or participation in its public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Valerie Day at the MAG office. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

Refreshments and a light snack will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Director, or Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, at (602) 254-6300.

c: MAG Regional Council
MAG Management Committee

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE
TENTATIVE AGENDA
March 24, 2010**

	<u>COMMITTEE ACTION REQUESTED</u>
1. <u>Call to Order</u>	
2. <u>Pledge of Allegiance</u>	
3. <u>Call to the Audience</u> An opportunity will be provided to members of the public to address the Transportation Policy Committee on items not scheduled on the agenda that fall under the jurisdiction of MAG, or on items on the agenda for discussion but not for action. Citizens will be requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. A total of 15 minutes will be provided for the Call to the Audience agenda item, unless the Transportation Policy Committee requests an exception to this limit. Please note that those wishing to comment on agenda items posted for action will be provided the opportunity at the time the item is heard.	3. Information.
4. <u>Approval of Consent Agenda</u> Prior to action on the consent agenda, members of the audience will be provided an opportunity to comment on consent items that are being presented for action. Following the comment period, Committee members may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda. Consent items are marked with an asterisk (*).	4. Recommend approval of the Consent Agenda.

ITEMS PROPOSED FOR CONSENT*

*4A. <u>Approval of the January 20, 2010, Meeting Minutes</u>	4A. Review and approval of the January 20, 2010, meeting minutes.
*4B. <u>Project Additions, Amendments and Administrative Modifications to the FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program</u> The FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and Regional Transportation Plan 2007 Update were approved	4B. Recommend approval of project additions, amendments and administrative modifications to the FY 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program, and as appropriate, to the Regional Transportation Plan 2007 Update.

by the MAG Regional Council on July 25, 2007. Requests have been received from the Arizona Department of Transportation and the Town of Buckeye to add new highway right-of-way projects and modify project costs and descriptions in the program. The project adjustments and new projects being added to the TIP are fiscally constrained and funding is available. The MAG Transportation Review Committee and the MAG Management Committee recommended approval of the additions, amendments and administrative modifications as listed in the attached table. Please refer to the enclosed material.

*4C. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Status Report

A Status Report on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds dedicated to transportation projects in the MAG region is provided. This report covers the status of project development as of February 16, 2010. It reports on highway, local, transit, and enhancement projects programmed with ARRA funds and the status of project development milestones per project. An update is also provided on the Jobs for Main Street bill being considered by the U.S. Congress. Please refer to the enclosed material.

4C. Information and discussion.

ITEMS PROPOSED TO BE HEARD

5. Financial Planning and Fiscal Constraint Requirements for Federal Transportation Funding and Status of Federal Funds Rescission at the Arizona Department of Transportation

Federal transportation planning regulations require that the MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Regional Transportation Plan demonstrate that adequate funding is available to build, operate and maintain transportation projects. The Federal Transit Administration is now requesting MAG to concur with grant requests that involve new or expanded service or new capital fixed assets and to state that sufficient financial resources are available at the regional or local level operate and maintain the assets for

5. Information and discussion.

which the grant is being submitted. For the purchase of new buses to implement new or expanded service, this means that MAG has to state that the transit operator has adequate funds to operate the new or expanded service. MAG staff need to collect and analyze the necessary financial information to make such determinations in the future.

On another financial issue, for several months, MAG staff attempted to receive financial information from the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to determine the status of remaining federal fund balances. Of concern was the status of approximately \$40-\$50 million that MAG carried forward from FY 2009 to FY 2010. On February 26, 2010, MAG received an updated financial report (ledger) from ADOT. It appears that MAG has approximately \$48 million in obligation authority that was carried forward to FY 2010. The apportionment that went with this funding was part of the federal rescission in September 2009. To spend the carry forward funds will require new apportionment. We expect the apportionment will be forthcoming with the passing of the full extension of the highway to December 31, 2010.

6. Regional Transit Framework Study

In cooperation with MAG member agencies, the Regional Public Transportation Authority, (RPTA), and Valley Metro Rail (METRO), MAG has developed a Regional Transit Framework to identify regional transit needs beyond the current Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The framework provides decision makers with a comprehensive perspective on the costs, schedules, trade-offs, impacts, and policy implications of three distinct transit investment scenarios for year 2030. In addition, the framework defines more conceptual transit needs for year 2050. The MAG Transit Committee, the Transportation Review Committee, and the Management Committee recommended acceptance of the Regional Transit Framework. The study documents are available on the

6. Recommend acceptance of the findings of the Regional Transit Framework as the public transportation framework for the MAG region; acceptance of the enclosed Illustrative Transit Corridors map for inclusion as unfunded regional transit illustrative corridors in the Regional Transportation Plan; and recommend consideration of future planning actions identified in the study through the MAG Unified Planning Work Program process.

following website: www.bqaz.org. Please refer to the enclosed material.

7. Legislative Update

An update will be provided on legislative issues of interest.

8. Request for Future Agenda Items

Topics or issues of interest that the Transportation Policy Committee would like to have considered for discussion at a future meeting will be requested.

9. Comments from the Committee

An opportunity will be provided for Transportation Policy Committee members to present a brief summary of current events. The Transportation Policy Committee is not allowed to propose, discuss, deliberate or take action at the meeting on any matter in the summary, unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

10. Adjournment

7. Information, discussion, and possible action.

8. Information and discussion.

9. Information.